Rome 1 April 1871

My dear Marcia

You'll be glad to hear that yesterday I received from our Ambassador at Florence Her Majesty's commission with her own dear signature – Also the King's exequatur with his royal signature – all this was a joy to me as I really only looked to a little pension & that my Consulate would be smashed. So I am sure you'll all be joyfull on my account that in my declining years, (age old age) I should be thus blessed & allowed to live on in peace in defiance of my enemies who are amazed after all their vain attempts to destroy me

I send you as usual my order for £10 to be got for you by that good boy Monte

1871

P.D.

Miss Marcia Stokes

Bushy Pl. Torriano Avenue

Camden Road

London N.W.

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LONDON-N.W. 101 B

PAID AP 6 71

I quote some of the Queens words as follows
= Now know ye, that we reposing especial trust
& confidence in the discretion & faithfulness of our
trusty & well beloved Joseph Severn Esquire

I hope this will find you comfortable & now
in the enjoyment of fine weather as tomorrow
is Palm Sunday - All the great ceremonies are at an
end & my post under the Pope is annulled, & Now
I am relieved of much care & trouble & may now
look out for real repose - Indeed this summer I
intend to pass in Rome in the old way, working at
my painting, for even this winter I have had little
to do, there being so few English here on account
of the war - Also I trust you will be able to give
me good news of my dear brother Tom as well as
yourself - I wrote to him lately

I can give a good account of myself my health is
restored & I can do all well if I do not attempt
to do too much, or only one thing in the day, every
one congratulates me on my healthy look, & no one
knows my age, for I fear if this had been known
I should not have had the new commission !! I have
only a little pension to keep body & soul together
3 & 4 miles I can do, but I often have a Cab

Your loving Joe

store for me & in which I have so often
striven against fate without avail & I
now look back & back & see how I
have been saved by the Almighty
hand — Now I have a confidence in
supplication & every difficult occasion
brings me a reward — for instance I
prayed & prayed that I might get some
little pension, when lo! there come
the new consulate come to take me off my
feet — Only think my writing such a
serious letter, but you, Maria, & I
are sticking into "the scar & yellow
leaf" & I confess that I dwell on
these matters with some zest that
I may never be taken by surprise
by my destiny sooner or later. I hope
this will find you enjoying the summer
air & able to get out

your loving brother
Joe